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The Sun

Thursday, February 9, 2000

Palm Beach County's Hometown Newspaper Since 1923

Volume 77/Number 5

Sun Spots

Sunset Celebration

Pahokee Main Street invites everyone to the monthly Sunset Celebration on the Lake, Saturday, Feb. 19, at 5 p.m. There will be entertainment and refreshments available throughout the evening. Vendors are welcome to come and set up at no charge, just call Shirley Jarriel, Pahokee Main Street Coordinator, at 924-6332 to apply.

PBCC announces "Health Fair 2000"

Palm Beach Community College's "Health Fair 2000", featuring over 20 local agencies, will be presented Feb. 22-23. The scheduled participants will include the Lung Mobile, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Palm Beach County Kidney Association and the "Stickle" Cell Association with testing.

Additionally, PBCC's nursing department will offer free blood pressure checks and Glades General Hospital will offer free blood sugar and cholesterol tests. The event will be held at the Glades Campus, 1977 College Drive, Belle Glade on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. inside the main building.

The event is free and open to the public.

Black Gold meeting

The next meeting of the Black Gold Jubilee 2000 Planning Committee will be held Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. at Belle Glade City Hall in the Commission Chambers.

Anyone wishing to participate on this committee should contact Carl Seibert at 993-334.

Grant program workshop set

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The meeting will be held Thursday, Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Palm Beach Community College, Glades Campus in Room 122.

For more information or to reserve a space, call Aurtie Williams at 992-8900.

Continued on Pg. 9



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Glades General Hospital breaks ground for \$1.4 million expansion

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As many members of the community and the administration and staff of Glades General Hospital, Marty Rash, president of Province Healthcare, spoke of Province's commitment to provide the best in health care for the Glades. He said, "This is an exciting time for this hospital. After only taking over 10 months ago, we are starting this expansion."

He said he was also pleased at the "great confidence the community has started to show this hospital. We hope to continue to meet the needs of this community."

Mayor Harma Miller addressed the crowd outside the hospital by saying, "Over the years we have had a very rough and bumpy road. I'm pleased to see this come to fruition and I encourage the community to use this fine facility."

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony was Abby Zumph, community leader and

member of the hospital's Pink Ladies. Mrs. Zumph participated in the groundbreaking for the Belle Glade Memorial Hospital in 1965.

Mrs. Zumph, 88, is a retired registered nurse. She moved to Belle Glade in 1941 from Ft. Knox where she ran the laboratory for a 5,000 bed army hospital, managing a team of 25 soldiers and 16 civilian technicians. Upon her arrival in the Glades she went to work for Dr. Buck and brought the "Gray Ladies" of the Red Cross to Glades General.

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"We are particularly excited about adding the cardiac cath lab to our list of services," said Jim Purcell, CEO. "This is in direct response to the identified needs of our community."

The expansion is targeted to be complete by the end of this year.

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See Endowment/Page 2

Rebuilding of Pahokee PD leading to more arrests, chief says

By Tracy Whirls

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"We've had a lot of calls on burglaries and car thefts, and we're making more arrests. They're becoming fewer because we're getting the right

people," the chief says.

The chief said the department lost a number of officers to other departments two years ago and has been rebuilding since then.

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See Projects/Page 8

Canal Boat excursion offers unique experience for "Gilligan's" crew of Pahokee residents



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Serving the cities of Belle Glade, Canal Point, Pahokee and South Bay



Lt. Col. Leo Gray of Miami and Lt. Col. Francis Horne of Hampton, VA., two of 900 Tuskegee Airmen who won the right to serve as fighter pilots for the United States Army Air Corps during World War II visited students at Belle Glade Elementary, Glades Central High School and Pahokee Middle Senior High School during a tour of the Palm Beach County School District Tuesday. The Airmen, denied the opportunity to fly because they were black, began training near the Tuskegee Institute in July 1941. Eventually, 961 Airmen trained at the Institute during the course of the war. Four hundred and fifty served as fighter pilots, providing cover for bomber wings in North Africa, Sicily and Europe. Of the 400 who served overseas, 78 died, and the men destroyed more than 400 enemy aircraft, flying 15,553 sorties in 15,078 missions. "Not bad for someone who's not supposed to be able to fly," Col. Gray observed. Lt. Col. Horne, a native of West Palm, told the students to do whatever they learn to do well and to be prepared for "your Tuskegee," the opportunity to realize a dream.

Pahokee receives \$1 million endowment

Endowment/From Pg. 1

no means of transporting vegetables from water-laden fields to higher ground he converted a Model A car into a lightweight truck, then, in favor of hauling more produce, removed the vehicle's rumble seat and built a small truck body in its place. This crude invention marked the beginning of a long and lucrative career in the produce brokerage and trucking industry.

Over the years he continued expanding his interests, maintaining year-round operations in Sanford, Fla. and Johnston, S.C. His San-

ford-based company distributed vegetables throughout the southern states.

The combination of his brokerage business and tractor trailer fleet enabled

Pahokee Youth Development Center employees honored

Administrators and staff of the Pahokee Youth Development Center recently recognized four of their peers who have shown excellence in performing their work responsibilities.

Facility administrator Sally Patterson recognized Barbara Carter and Andrew Eldridge

him to purchase fruits and vegetables and ship them to any location in the United States.

He closed his Pahokee office in 1982.

for the month of December, and Kimberly Adams and Pamela Syddell for the month of January. Each received a personalized T-shirt, a certificate and \$50 cash at a party in their honor.

In addition, an engraved plaque has been placed in the lobby for all to see.

South Bay approves mowing contract

By Tracy Whirls

The South Bay City Commission approved an agreement with Charlie's Tree & Lawn, Inc. of Okeechobee to provide lawn maintenance for city easements and right of ways.

City Manager Michael Jackson said the agreement, devised by City Attorney Samuel Thomas provides for oversight of the maintenance work and limits the city's liability for payment to work that is completed.

At a previous meeting, Commissioners had expressed concern that the city not get burned by entering an unenforceable agreement.

Mr. Jackson said the lawn company would work closely with city staff and the public utilities director to schedule mowing and other maintenance activities, and a checklist would be prepared to ensure that scheduled tasks were performed. In addition to mowing,

the crews will also clean up trash and keep curbs and storm drains free of debris.

Under the terms of the agreement, Charlie's Lawn will be paid \$5,600 monthly to maintain the city's property, including sidewalk areas and easements beginning at the city limits and extending north and south on US 27 and east and west on SR 80. During the summer, crews are expected to work in South Bay three days a week, and if less work is needed during the winter season, the payments by the city will be prorated, Mr. Jackson said.

The contract will be subject to renewal every year, and payment for the work is subject to the contractor's performing the work to the city's satisfaction.

Mr. Jackson said the company is expected to begin working in South Bay within two weeks.

Commissioner Esther Berry commended the city manager's efforts in securing the contract and working to clean up the

city. Mr. Jackson said city crews have been working to clean up property at the wastewater and water plants and are scheduled to begin cleaning up parks in coming weeks.

In other business, the commission approved an agreement with Craig A. Smith and Associates to retain Dale Milita as a lobbyist during the upcoming legislative session to assist the city in securing the payment in lieu of taxes funding from the privatization council for Wackenhut.

Mr. Jackson noted that Mr. Milita has been instrumental in securing the funding in past years, and that his assistance will be particularly useful this year, when Gov. Jeb Bush is considering abolishing the privatization committee.

Craig A. Smith will be paid 4.5 percent of the \$317,000 the city expects to receive in lieu of taxes.

SHIP Spirit 2000 Outreach Revival held in Pahokee

Representatives from area churches and pastors gathered Feb. 10 at Shilo Baptist Church in Pahokee for the second Ship Spirit 2000 Outreach revival. The group went through Pahokee's main street area passing out HIV brochures and gospel tracts, serving approximately 250 people who were very receptive of everything the group had to offer.

Participants in the revival street outreach included: Rev. Clifford Davis, Rev. Larry White, and Sister White, Jermaine Sutton, Felicia Reeves, Tyrone Jenkins, Samantha Smith, Joseph Benfield, Sandra Daniels, Melva Webb, J.D. Kane and Cyril Boyce.

In January, representatives from several area churches gathered at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Belle Glade for an HIV education workshop to prepare for the outreach

revival. Topics highlighted included the administration of the HIV/AIDS pre-test, an oral test which extracts body fluids from the mucous membranes of the mouth which can be analyzed for the presence of the virus, without a blood test, as well as information on the history of the AIDS epidemic, prevention, transmission, treatment and other information.

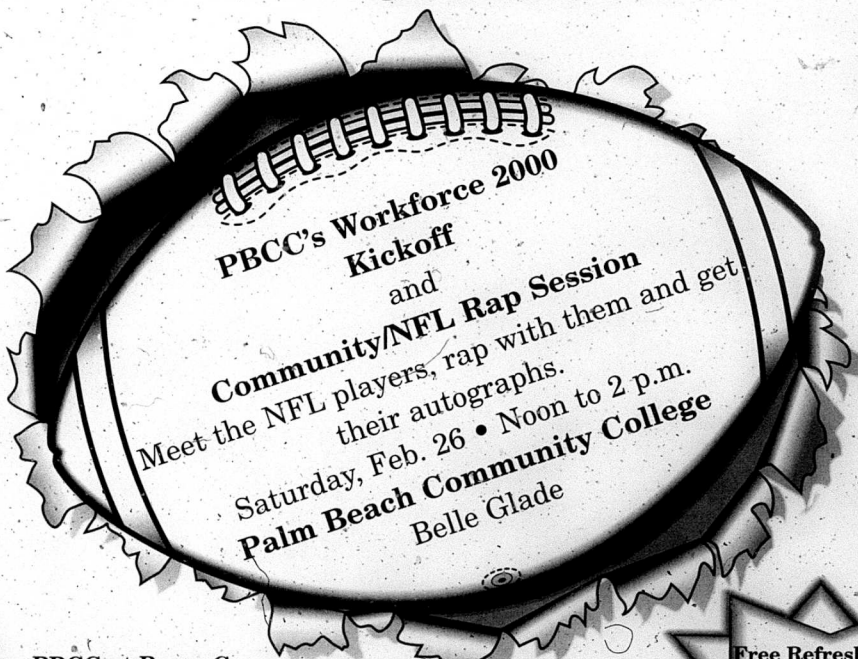
Participating in the SHIP Spirit 2000 workshop were facilitator/presenter Sandra Daniels, Melva Webb, Peggie Smith, representing New Bethel Baptist Church, Jacqueline Radcliffe, Rev. Isaac S. Jones, pastor, and Roosevelt Jones, all of Mt. Zion A.M.E.; Tyrone Jenkins and Samantha Smith, representing First Born Church of the Living God; Wilbert Little, Jr., Courtney Love, Shamee Smith, Majorie S.

Ferguson, Randy Flores and Sharonda Taylor, all representing Inspirational Church of God.

Organizers of the SHIP Spirit 2000 HIV/AIDS Eradication Outreach program urge all community-based organizations, sororities, fraternities and churches to unite to eradicate HIV in the new millennium. The group also encourages anyone who can donate flashlights and batteries, or a golf cart to be used during the outreach ministries to contact any of the churches participating in the ministry.

The next SHIP Street Outreach Revival will be held March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Born Church of the Living God, 525 S.W. 6th Street, Belle Glade. Rev. Charles Derio is the pastor. For more information, contact Melva Webb or Sandra Daniels at (561) 996-1600.

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Toddlers make great exercise partners...or weights



Katrina Elskin
Contributing Editor

He's 19 months old and his name is Michael.

Like most working moms, I don't have a lot of free time. So combining exercise and playing with the baby seemed like a good idea.

When you work out with

weights, you are supposed to start with a lighter weight and then gradually go to heavier weights. Using a baby does that naturally. Michael was 7 pounds 11 ounces at birth and has gradually gained weight.

Exercising with a small child was not my idea. There are several videos on the market and I have seen mommy-and-baby exercises in a number of magazines. The exercises I do are just my own adaptations of the ones I saw or read about elsewhere.

Before you begin any exercise program you should check with your doctor.

Before you exercise with your

baby, discuss it with your baby's doctor as well.

There are some basic safety factors to consider. Always exercise on a thick rug or exercise mat. An overexcited toddler may squirm out of your arms. If you get tired, don't push yourself to do "one more repetition." You don't want to risk dropping the child.

When you exercise with any kind of weights you should keep your motions slow and controlled. Your muscles should be doing the work. If you let the momentum of the weights (or child) swing upward, you get no benefit. And never, never throw a child into the air. Hundreds of babies

are injured each year in this country when well-meaning parents throw them up and then fail to catch them.

I usually start my exercise routine with a basic lift. With Michael facing me, I squat as if doing a deep knee bend. I put my hands under his armpits and then slowly straighten my legs. This exercises my legs and also allows me to lift the boy without putting strain on my lower back. To exercise my upper arms and shoulders, I continue to lift Michael up until my arms are straight. Then, I slowly lower him and start over. I usually do five repetitions.

Michael's favorite part of our

exercise routine is the "flying baby." I lie on my back with my knees bent as if to do a sit-up. I let Michael sit on my feet, facing me. I hold his hands and then slowly lift my legs, until he is parallel to the floor. By this time he is usually laughing. (Anyone watching also tends to laugh, but I try to stay focused.) I raise and lower the "flying baby" ten times.

A variation of the "flying baby" is to raise him only partway and then do crunches, although Michael does not find this exercise as amusing as the regular "flying baby" routine.

If you need aerobic exercise, there is nothing like having a toddler as an exercise buddy.

Put on some music with a fast beat, encourage the baby to dance, and then have fun.

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ER Chronicles: I can't take care of her



Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

By Arlen R. Stauffer, MD

"I can't take her home."

Tears welled up in the daughter's eyes. She brushed some

gray straggles from her forehead, then looked across the ER bed where her mother rested, and straight into the doctor's eyes.

"I just can't take care of her any longer."

Emergency physician Tammy Cortez had encountered this situation many times in her 12 years in the ER. It seemed to be even more frequent the past few years, as the area's population was aging. That relentless toll that time eventually withdraws from each person would often bring this scenario to the hospital.

"OK," Cortez said with an understanding tone. "Let's see what we can figure out."

She spent a few minutes talking with the frustrated daughter. She found out that she had been providing care for her aging mother, by herself, for the past four years. They lived in a small condo, just the two of them, and the elder woman had not been out for more than a year.

"Is she able to get out of bed?" Cortez asked as she glanced at the frail body on the bed.

"I try to get her up into a chair each day," the daughter responded. Then, with her voice cracking, she repeated, "I just can't take care of her anymore."

After some inquiries about the recent eating habits of the mother, Cortez turned her attention to the quiet soul in the bed. She noted that her skin was clean, and there was no indication of any bed pressure sores.

"You've done a good job with her," Cortez said as she pulled her stethoscope from her jacket pocket.

She listened carefully to the old woman's chest. She felt the sagging skin around her neck, and probed her abdomen. She ran a hand down each contracted leg to the skinny ankles. The bounding pulses were noted on each foot.

The elderly mother made no sounds except for her quiet, steady breathing. She was in no discomfort, nor did she have any understanding about what was going on around her.

"We'll run a few tests," Cortez said, "to see if there is any necessity for hospitalization."

She paused to allow the "if there-is-any-necessity" to sink in. When she saw the frustration on the daughter's face, she continued.

"If there's no reason to put her in the hospital, we'll explore other options. There are other things that can be done. We can help."

With a quick smile, Cortez left the bedside. She marked the mother's chart so that some lab tests and an EKG would be performed.

The daughter settled quietly into a chair beside her mother. She reached up and took her hand and gave it a squeeze. The two remained silent as the EKG was obtained and the blood was drawn from an arm. A specimen of urine was sent to the lab.

The mother was unaware of the bustle in the beds next to hers. She didn't hear the crying of the baby in the next room. Her own world, one that ignored these outside interferences, was not threatened.

Soon, Cortez returned with another woman. "This is Cindy," she reported. "Cindy is our Social Worker here in the ER."

The daughter shook Cindy's hand.

"Other than the Alzheimer's, your mother is in pretty good shape, and there really isn't any reason to hospitalize her."

Cortez paused again. "Cindy will help you figure out just what is best for you and your mother."

As Cortez left the room, she heard Cindy's first remark.

"You've done a wonderful job with your mother so far, now let's see what we can do to help."

Cortez had heard it all many times before. There would be discussions about Adult Congregate Living Facilities, about home health care, about private duty aides, and about nursing homes.

Cortez returned to her desk to complete the old woman's chart. She thought about her own mother, who had birthday number 74 last week. For a few moments, her thoughts took her back to Pennsylvania. She stared into the corner, then sighed.

"Doc?" The nurse's interruption startled her back to Florida. Cortez headed back toward the crying baby in Room 5.

Dr. Stauffer, an emergency physician in New Smyrna

Beach, is a member of the Florida College of Emergency Physicians. www.fcep.org



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Community Education Session
by



Dr. Ellis Webster, Board Certified Otolaryngologist (ENT)

Wednesday, February 23rd
5:30 p.m.
Glades General Hospital
Cafeteria

First in a Series of Community
Education Sessions Sponsored by

GLADES GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Heart of Healthcare in the Glades

The key to good health care is education

The days of blindly going to the doctor and blindly doing what you're told are long gone.

Good consumerism has reached the health care field and the patients of today are taking the time to educate themselves about their maladies and illnesses. Armed with information, patients are no longer afraid of what might be happening to their bodies.

Physicians need to find time in their practices to answer poignant questions to the satisfaction of their patients.

"Education is the key to good health care in 2000," states Ellis L. Webster, M.D., Board Certified Otolaryngologist. "Patients not only have the right, but they have the duty to educate themselves, when a problem arises. This under-

standing will help increase their comfort level with what the physician is doing to help them regain good health."

Many patients are finding the information they need on the net. While there are many informational sites and support groups available, it is important that patients use these sites to aid their understanding of what the physician is recommending, not to replace the physician. Self-diagnosis and self-treatment can be dangerous.

Dr. Webster, who specializes in the diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of disorders of the ear, nose and throat, including hearing loss, sinusitis, allergy, sore throat, hoarseness, snoring, sleep apnea, thyroid disorders and

head and neck cancer, says he is dedicated to educating his patients.

Dr. Webster is conducting a Community Education Session of "Rhinosinusitis" (runny nose and sinus infection) February 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Glades General Hospital cafeteria. If you have any questions related to the treatment of the ears, nose or throat, he will be available to answer questions following his presentation.

This Community Education Session is sponsored by Glades General Hospital as part of its commitment to health and safety related community education. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Calsetta, Director of Marketing at 996-6571, extension 444.

COMING SOON

FROM THE SUN

2000 Medical Directory

On February 24, 2000, The Sun will publish a Medical Directory covering Western Palm Beach County. These directories are inserted into The Sun, given out at the local Chambers of Commerce, and distributed to advertisers to place in their waiting rooms, etc.

Be sure to get your copy!

OPINION PAGE

Feel strongly about local issues?



The Sun
INVITES YOU TO
SPEAK OUT!
(561) 996-6636

Speak Out is our 24-hour opinion line.

Call 996-6636 to express your opinion or ask questions about public issues. You are not required to give your name. While we want you to speak out freely, the newspaper reserves the right to edit calls for clarity, brevity, relevance and fairness.

Private work on public dollars?

"I would like the Belle Glade City Manager and the City Commission to address this situation.

Why do the taxpayers of this city have to pay the Parks and Recreation Director a salary when he takes the city employees, on city time, and fixes a baseball field for a private school on city time?

That's not right and he should have to explain this and the City Manager and the City Commission should look into this.

Please respond."

Mike Underwood, Parks and Recreation Director, responds: "In response to this article, my first point to make is that the City of Belle Glade Parks and Recreation Department employees do not work on private property without prior knowledge and approval by the proper city authorities.

The Parks and Recreation budget for repairs and maintenance of buildings and grounds is \$10,000. Any time we can be of service to someone and come out ahead, I would think that this would be good planning. In the situation noted in your Speak

Out, yes, we did disassemble two dugouts which were being replaced at Glades Day School. In doing so, we used the good lumber to repair the press box at Airport Park, and the rest of the lumber will be used for cement frames at the Marina, and as needed. A good deed is often worth the effort!

In my past 20 years of employment with the city, I have worked closely with the athletic departments of our local high schools. For us to survive in a small town, it is essential to assist one another, not work against each other. I am a salaried employee with the city, which means I am on call at all times. If any Belle Glade citizen would like to view my working hours, feel free to call me and I will have the records available to them.

I wish that in the future, should anyone question what the Recreation Department employees are doing, that they speak to me directly or phone the city manager. There are often positive answers, and perhaps we may be of assistance to you too some day."

Editor's note: We received two additional Speak Out calls that require responses. These will run in the February 24 edition of *The Sun*.



Couples' retirement shouldn't rattle the nerves

She's been getting up every morning at 5:30 a.m. for 25 years to fix his 6:30 breakfast. He's been heading out to his job as a high school basketball coach for just as many years. Recently, however, he opted for early retirement and while she is thinking it's finally okay to sleep in a little later, his biological alarm clock just keeps right on clanging around 6 a.m. every morning.

Traditionally, this is the way we know retirement. The sandwich generation, those who take care of children and parents concurrently, however, may be spending their retirement years a little differently. According to Radford University social work instructor Jane Roberts, the adjustment to a change in roles and household activities does not have to rattle the nerves of a happily married couple.

While Roberts believes that current trends reveal it's less likely couples are living out the fairy tale of spending more time with the grandkids, sitting on their front porches and traveling the world, it still can be an exciting time in a couple's life.

"Retirement can be very rewarding and fulfilling for a couple. They just have to realize there are adjustments coming."

Those who have identified themselves with the job or have held their jobs in high esteem and part of their identity, find it harder to retire. It doesn't matter if they're a blue or white collar worker and it doesn't matter if they're a traditional mom-and-housewife. If they felt their jobs were part of their identity, it's going to be hard for them to retire," Roberts notes. The

spouse will soon realize that there is much more than just an "empty nest" syndrome going on in the household. "They were a part of something for a long time. It's going to be hard to sit down and do nothing."

In all likelihood, today's retiring couples aren't sitting around staring at one another, Roberts says. "They're out there in the community getting involved and helping."

Roberts' research reveals that retirees are unique, contributing members of the work force and are very active in volunteerism. "Many retirees are starting to do consulting and even become mentors to the people who are just entering their field of expertise," Roberts says. With one or both spouses being involved in some type of work or volunteer effort after retirement, chances of extreme adjustment problems are unlikely.

"Yes, there will be a change in the role the spouse plays," Roberts says. Men are retiring earlier and the women are working longer. Also, men may be the stay-at-home spouse while the wife is either continuing her career or perhaps starting a new one.

"Some wives may be going to work for the first time after the husband retires," Roberts says. The children are now grown and she is choosing to establish her own place in the world by going to work outside the home.

"Not so many couples are facing empty nest syndromes as we think," Roberts notes. "Most are actually finding they don't have much time after retirement to worry about their children being grown and

out of the home. If the first few weeks of retirement are testing the patience of a couple, Roberts offers these suggestions:

- Be assertive. If you need time alone, tell the other person, "I need time alone."

- Trust your own children's instincts. Children of retiring couples know the strengths and weaknesses of their parents; they can encourage them to get involved in activities where they can most benefit and receive the most personal self reward.

- Don't fixate on changing the behavior of your spouse. Willing compromise can effectively smooth out the differences in adjustment. Roberts suggests good, simple communication. If you need time alone, don't say "You're always in my face."

- Realize the marriage is still a partnership and not about power differences. If the wife keeps working after the husband retires, the husband needs to know that's okay. "Women are simply living longer and they feel like doing more because they're healthier than ever before," say Roberts.

- Don't fixate on changing the behavior of your spouse. Willing compromise can effectively smooth out the differences in adjustment. Roberts suggests good, simple communication. If you need time alone, don't say "You're always in my face."

Psychologists stress that humor can also be the spice that both livens and eases the adjustment process for retirees.

Taking a walk on the mild side sometimes make couples see things in a different light and brings to realization that their differences are no reason for divorce after all.

Looking back through time.....



Looking back...This photo was taken in the early 1970s, but we're not sure what's going on, except that they are counting money!

The Sun

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Belle Glade, FL 33430
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A PLEDGE TO OUR READERS

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- ✓ To help our community become a better place to live and work, through our dedication to conscientious journalism.
- ✓ To provide the information citizens need to make their own decisions about public issues.
- ✓ To report the news with honesty, accuracy, purposeful neutrality, fairness, objectivity, fearlessness and compassion.
- ✓ To use our opinion pages to facilitate community debate; not to dominate it with our own opinions.
- ✓ To correct our errors, and to give each correction the prominence it deserves.
- ✓ To provide a right to reply to those about whom we write.
- ✓ To treat people with courtesy, respect and compassion.

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Editors-note: The POLICE NEWS in this newspaper lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.



About letters

To voice your opinion about Glades issues, or to respond favorably or unfavorably to articles printed in the paper, we encourage you to write us a letter. Send to: **The Sun**

417 N.W. 16th Street #6, Belle Glade, FL 33430

Was it really a hurricane on Lake Huron?



Mike Lyons

Never say never in meteorology. Take hurricanes, for example.

I learned a long time ago that hurricanes can only form in the tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. A hurricane feeds on the warm waters of these regions. It can't survive, let alone develop, in a cool water climate. Still, there have been examples where storms resembling a hurricane have evolved in unusual locations. Such storms have formed occasionally in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coastline of Washington and Oregon during the winter, and in the polar regions.

While these storms may look like a hurricane or a tropical storm, they don't operate like one. A hurricane is a warm core cyclone, so called because it is

warmer at its center than its periphery.

But these hurricane-wannabes are cold core cyclones, storms that obtain their energy from the sun, and available moisture, and storms with a center that is generally characterized by cold air.

Hurricanes also need a fairly large body of water as a breeding ground. Most systems develop in the open waters of the Atlantic or Pacific.

That's what makes what happened on September 14, 1996 in Lake Huron even more remarkable.

Lake Huron is the second largest of the Great Lakes with an area of 23,000 square miles. Lumbering, fishing and tourism play a major role on the Lake which carries extensive ship traffic.

And while Lake Huron has seen its share of monster storms, one type of storm has never formed there. It would be impossible for a hurricane to develop on Lake Huron.

Never say never in meteorology.

On September 14, 1996 an intense low pressure system formed over southeastern Lake Huron. As the low intensified, the cold-core system evolved into a warm-core system.

The storm even developed an eye and spiral bands just like a

hurricane. Satellite photographs of the storm were amazing. It looked like a hurricane and, based on meteorological records, it was the first time such a system had been observed over the Great Lakes.

The storm even acted like a tropical system, briefly producing tropical storm force winds (39 to 73 mph) and inundating southern Canada, parts of New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania with heavy rain.

But was it a real hurricane?

Not quite. A good argument could be made that the storm was 'nearly a tropical storm, just like a tropical storm, "Hurricane Huron" as it has become known, gathered its strength from the water, in this case, the warm waters of Lake Huron. And, like a tropical storm, when the "Hurricane Huron" drifted over cooler waters the storm began to weaken.

There is little doubt that the waters of Lake Huron, which were at their warmest readings of the year, played an important role in the development of this unique storm. Chances are we will never see another one like it again.

Then again, never say never in meteorology.

(Mike Lyons is the chief weather forecaster for WPBQ-TV)



Pioneer Park Elementary School fifth graders donated books to the Head Start children at Glades Glen last week. Pioneer Park Media Specialist Annette Gray said her students came to the Head Start every couple of weeks and read to the small children. The books were donated by Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative. Shown, front row, from left are Willie Kitchen, Freddie Davis, Latoria Brown and LaPatience Ward. Shown back row, from left are Jacqueline Jacques, Shantoria Rivers, Alteria Keyes, Jose Barron and Phillip Burnett.



The Belle Glade Rotary Club presented long-time Rotarian Marvin Unwin with the "Rotarian of the Century" award recently. Presenting the award (left) is Rotary President Brandon Markham.

CRIME STOPPERS



Ronald Folkes

Crime Stoppers of Palm Beach County, Inc., is asking citizens to help locate Ronald Folkes who is wanted for failure to appear on two counts of lewd assault and three counts of sexual activity with a child.

Folkes is a black male, 5'6" tall, and weighs 240 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes and a scar on his forehead. His date of birth is October 10, 1957.

His last known address was

1206 Glades Glen Drive, Belle Glade. His Social Security number is unknown and his last occupation was as a laborer. His warrant was active as of February 8, 2000.

If you know the whereabouts of Ronald Folkes or anyone involved in a serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-458-8477. You can remain anonymous and still receive a cash reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

Arrest Blotters

Editor's note: The police news on this page lists arrests, not convictions, unless otherwise stated. Arrested persons who later are found not guilty or have had the charges against them dropped are welcome to let us know. We will confirm the information and print it.

BELLE GLADE

The Belle Glade Police Department handled 632 complaints and gave 39 traffic citations the week of February 7-13.

Those arrested included:

February 7 - Freddie Davis, 32, burglary and resisting arrest without violence; **Juvenile, 9**, aggravated battery and shooting into an occupied dwelling; **Juvenile, 17**, felony criminal mischief and auto burglary.

February 8 - Jimmy Lamar, 20, aggravated battery with a deadly weapon and failure to appear on a traffic citation; **Steven Bernard Smith, 26**, failure to appear on charges of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and discharge of a firearm in public; **Phillips Roberson, 21**, resisting an officer without violence; **Clinnie Colling, 58**, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon; **Shah Ahsanullah, 50**, display of harmful materials to minors.

February 9 - Nathaniel Burroughs, 34, occupied burglary; **Douglas Madison, 20**, domestic battery and resisting arrest without violence; **Willie J. Anderson, 32**, failure to appear on charges of attached tag not assigned.

February 10 - Jacques Germain, 22, battery on a law enforcement officer; **Renne Bridges, 18**, resisting arrest with violence and obstruction by a disguised person; **Joe Hanson Singleton, 24**, warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

February 11 - James L. Minus, 36, failure to appear on charges of failure to obey a traffic control device, driving while license suspended and registration of tag not assigned, also for possession of cocaine; **Erica Collins, 24**, failure to appear on charges of retail theft; **Joseph Jackson, 31**, contempt of court on an order of commitment; **Dorothy Johnson, 32**, retail theft; **Ernest Brown, 20**, domestic battery; **Anthony Perkins Jr., 21**, failure to appear on charges of attached tag not assigned, driving while license suspended and speed posted on a county road; **Cora Keith, 35**, aggravated domestic assault.

February 12 - Shaaur Brand, 18, warrant for aggravated battery; **Lorenzo Gonzalez, 19**, carrying a concealed weapon; **Onéal Green, 35**, contempt of court; **Juvenile, 17**, contempt of court for dealing in stolen property

ty and criminal mischief; **Mary Robinson, 40**, contempt of court; **Kenji Simeton, 28**, domestic battery; **Juvenile, 14**, battery; **Pablo Lopez, 44**, robbery with a weapon.

February 13 - Charlie Simmons, 21, occupied burglary and grand theft; **Natalie Jones, 22**, occupied burglary and grand theft; **Juvenile, 14**, grand theft auto and resisting an officer without violence; **Juvenile, 15**, grand theft auto, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence and criminal trespass; **Olga Garcia, 31**, trespassing after warning.

PAHOKEE

The Pahokee Police Department handled 172 calls, issued 3 traffic citations and made 5 arrests the week of February 7-13.

Those arrested included:

February 7 - No arrests made.

February 8 - Byron Hamilton, 36, carrying a concealed weapon and trespassing; **Bernard Jones, 36**, burglary.

February 9 - Charles Williams, 53, domestic battery.

February 10 - No arrests made.

February 11 - No arrests made.

February 12 - Alvin Walker Jr., 50, burglary, forced entry and a warrant for contempt of court; **Willie Harvey, 36**, trespassing after warning.

February 13 - No arrests made.

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's made 4 arrests the week of February 7-13.

Those arrested included: **February 7 - Kevin Pablo Pitre, 29**, of Pahokee, violation of injunction, obstruction.

February 8 - Anthony Robinson, 39, Pahokee, simple battery domestic; **Roy Terrence Lenard Walker, 22**, Pahokee, domestic battery; **James Ronald Tillman, 30**, Pahokee, domestic battery.

February 9 - No arrests made.

February 10 - Juvenile, Pahokee, burglary Feb. 15- Patrick D. Bradley, obstruction; resisting without violence; false report re. crimes.

February 11 - No arrests made.

February 12 - No arrests made.

February 13 - No arrests made.

PRESIDENTS' DAY SAVINGS

*****BONANZA*****

<p>1998 Chevrolet Silverado Extended Cab One owner. P. Windows & Locks. 17K Miles. Auto. A/C. Super Clean!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$19,999</p>	<p>1998 Camaro Auto. A/C. P. Windows & Door Locks. Aluminum Wheels. CD. One Owner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13,999</p>	<p>1997 Chrysler Town & Country LXI 7 Passenger. Leather. Loaded! Too Nice to Describe! A Steel Al...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$17,999</p>
<p>1997 Ford Crown Victoria Sedan Leather loaded!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$13,999</p>	<p>3 DAY/150 MILE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$9,999</p>	<p>1995 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight Regency Sedan. One Owner. Leather. Cassette & CD. P. Seats. One of a Kind!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$14,999</p>
<p>1995 Chevy G30 14ft. Cube Van Heavy Duty Chassis. 350 V8. Auto. A/C. 44K Miles. Ready to Haul</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$14,999</p>	<p>1996 Buick Century Custom Sedan 27000 Miles. One Owner. Carport. Roof. P. Seats. Loaded with Much Much More!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10,999</p>	<p>1996 Pontiac Grand Am SE Coupe 49K Miles. V6. Auto. A/C. P. Windows & Locks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$8,999</p>
<p>1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass SL Coupe Tilt. Cruise. P. Windows. P. Locks. One Owner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5,999</p>	<p>1999 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS One Owner. Auto. A/C. Aluminum Wheels. Spoiler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$10,999</p>	<p>1997 Ford Taurus GL Sedan Loaded! P. Windows & Locks. Tilt. Cruise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$9,999</p>

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AutoNation USA



Sports this week



The Lakeshore Middle School Road Runners boys basketball team includes Albert Dukes (20), Lawrence Griffen (34), Masonick Stinfott (3), Alton Dowdell (14), Michael Lee (11), Jean Dorcien (13), Randy Phillips (55), Vinkevus Pierre (5), Walter Tucker (32), Kinard Carey (40), Damon Warren (4), Josiah Johnson (10), Dempsey Josinville (21), Eugene Stoudmire (12), Willie Lawrence (44), and Kent Henderson (23) with head coach Frank McCallum and assistant coach Luke Pierre.

Fishing is economic boon for lake area, Florida

By Herb Allen

Division of Freshwater Fisheries
It's mind-boggling when we think about the economic impact freshwater fishing has on Florida's economy.

When adding in anglers who ply the state's saltwaters, we're talking about a truly tidy sum of more than \$6 billion.

Folks, that's billion with a capital B!

And, that \$6-billion-plus figure is probably conservative since we're working from figures compiled in an American Sportfishing Association (ASA) study funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., in 1996.

Given a modest inflationary increase since '96, and combined with an expansion in the number of those recruited to fishing since then, it's reasonable to conclude that figure is closer now to \$7 billion (give or take a dollar or two) in the new millennium.

In 1996, 2,854,021 fisherpeople over 16 years of age spent 45,464,000 angler days fishing in the Sunshine State's waters in search of a wide variety of finny targets spending more than \$3,288,843,000.

This translates into the creation of 81,815 jobs in which people earned \$1,711,404,281. State sales tax coffers benefited to the tune of \$197,330,658, while Federal Income Taxes amounted to \$176,392,657. On top of this, the Sport Fish Restoration Excise Tax Apportionment, a user-pays, user-benefits tax that is generally strongly supported by anglers themselves, received \$5,114,792 to be used for supporting Florida's fisheries conservation and management program.

According to 1996 ASA estimates, there were 35.2 million people

nationally who went fishing at least once that year and, they point out, the economic effect of these angler expenditures rippled throughout local, state and national economies by sustaining old jobs and creating new ones.

As anyone can conclude, the growth of recreational fishing over the past several decades has given this popular activity a clearly defined position in the social and economic fabric of every state in the nation.

Florida, with its \$6,057,317,747 fisheries economic output in 1996 ranked third among the 50 states. California (\$7,127,585,206) and Texas (\$6,366,580,439) edged us Crackers out for the one-two spots. It's a good probability that we will have taken over the national leadership role when the next ASA study comes out sometime in 2000, because of drastic increases of fresh and saltwater fisheries resources due to passage of common sense laws, rules and regulations, in addition to the energetic and effective efforts of Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), which continues to emphasize far-reaching statewide habitat restoration initiatives. In 1971, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (one of the antecedents of the FWC) pioneered the lake draw-down technology with a very successful effort in Lake Kissimmee to overcome the degradation of years of stabilized water levels. Smoke Holcomb and Bucky Wegener were the original innovators of this technology, which remains at the heart of most major lake restoration efforts today.

Not only has Florida regained its "Bass Capital of the World" title, resident and nonresident fishing license sales, which had been relatively "flat" everywhere for more

than a decade, began showing a modest upturn in Florida during 1999, according to the FWC's director of the Freshwater Fisheries Division, Ed Moyer. He remains cautiously optimistic that license sales, which fund the vast majority of division efforts, will gradually increase again as a result of improved fishing and public recognition of the need to purchase licenses; not only to be legal but also to help to continue improving the health of fisheries and aquatic resources.

Further evidence of Florida's remarkable comeback is the number of national bass tournament organizations, including the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS) and the Great Outdoors Adventure Show's national Father-Son tourney, flocking to our waters to stage competitions. This culminated on Nov. 7 with history's richest fishing event, the Ranger M1 Millennium Bass Tournament being held on the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes at Cypress Gardens where 400 of the world's leading professional and amateur bassers vied for \$3 million in prize money and were seen by a national audience in the first ever live network television coverage for such an event.

Will Florida ever hit an annual \$10 billion fishing economic impact figure? Don't dismiss this thought.

What's more, it may happen much sooner than later as fishing fraternity members throughout the world conclude that Florida affords them the best opportunity to catch the fresh or saltwater trophy they've been dreaming about, and as residents begin taking their families out fishing once again as a way of re-establishing family values and providing relaxing quality time together.



The Lakeshore Middle School Lady Road Runners basketball team includes Christina Granville (25), Jokeira Sneed (22), Latarsha Pearson (10), Crystal Seider (44), Tiffany Summerrall (5), Latoya Holley (41), Cassandra Anderson (12), Lashawnda Woodley (2), Artisha Hardwick (23), Officia Browning (32), Courtney Jackson (33), Jamie Evans (14), Orkie Brown (3), Courtney Myrick (35), Mikilya Ferguson (1), Brittney West (30), Mercedes Taylor (50), Shaundra Smith (11) with head coach James Harrington and assistant coach Luke Pierre. (Photo by Tracy Whirls)

Gators boys varsity end season 10-16

The Glades Day Gators varsity boys basketball team ended their regular season play last week with a 10-16 record, and faced off against Kings Academy in District action Tuesday, after a split decision with the team during regular season play.

In the last week of regular play the Gators lost to LaBelle, 92-88, then defeated North Broward Prep 48-40, and Davie University 55-40. Jesse Montalto led the scoring for the Gators, racking up 56 points and 30 rebounds. Ryan Shackelford made 56 points. Tony

Porter scored 32 points and 33 rebounds and Jonathon Lively contributed 31 points and 25 rebounds during the week's action.

According to Coach Richard Schmidt, Patrick Cross has done an excellent job at point guard running the offense the entire year.

Don't Miss the Big Lake Sunday News

The Sun, the Clewiston News, the Glades County Democrat and the Okeechobee Daily News have come together to provide a Sunday paper for the south end of Lake Okeechobee. Pick it up anywhere you usually buy The Sun, and keep up with what's happening on our end of the lake.

Sun sports this week

Feb. 18, 2000

Glades Day Gators Tennis vs. LaBelle, home 3:30 p.m.

Glades Day Gators JV baseball vs. Glades Central, home, 3:30 p.m.

Feb. 22, 2000

Pahokee Lady Blue Devils Softball vs. John Carroll, away, 4 p.m.
Pahokee Lady Blue Devils Flag Football, vs. Atlantic, home 6/7 p.m.

Glades Day Lady Gators varsity softball vs. St. Edwards, home, 3:30 p.m.

Glades Day Gators Tennis vs. School of the Arts, away, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators Jr. varsity baseball vs. LaBelle, home 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators varsity baseball, vs. LaBelle, away, 6 p.m.

Feb. 23, 2000

Pahokee Lady Blue Devils Softball vs. St. Andrews, home, 4 p.m.

Feb. 24, 2000

Glades Day Lady Gators JV softball vs. Clewiston Middle, home, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators tennis vs. St. Edwards, home, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators JV baseball vs. Clewiston, home, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators varsity baseball, vs. Clewiston, away, 7 p.m.

Feb. 25, 2000
Pahokee Lady Blue Devils

flag football vs. Dwyer, away, 6/7 p.m.

Glades Day Lady Gators softball vs. St. Andrews, away, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators varsity baseball vs. St. Andrews, away, 4 p.m.

Feb. 29, 2000

Pahokee Lady Blue Devils softball vs. Wellington, away, 4 p.m.

Pahokee Lady Blue Devils flag football vs. Santaluces, home, 6/7 p.m.

Glades Day Lady Gators varsity softball vs. John Carroll, home, 4 p.m.

Glades Day Gators varsity baseball vs. St. Edwards, away, 7 p.m.

Ameritech offers opportunity through education

By Tracy Whirls

Ameri-Tech Institute for Career Education, a non-profit educational organization, opened in the South Bay Plaza in South Bay in April 1999 with the goal of providing skill-based training in health care and customer service using a multi-dimensional approach.

"Ameri-Tech Institute opened our doors to help ameliorate the demonstrated problem in the Glades communities," said Ameri-Tech President and Director of Education Jack Jones. "We are working to become accredited so that we can offer financial aid for those seeking to improve their economic and social prospects. Right now, we are the only post-secondary vocational school available in the Glades for adult learners. There is a community college in town, but people with skills deficiencies are hesitant to attempt college coursework."

While most vocational-technical schools are one dimensional, concentrating on teaching students the particular skills needed for a

particular occupation, Mr. Jones said Ameri-Tech takes a multi-skill approach.

"We have the skill-based training, but we also offer a literacy core, and a workplace socialization component. We address dental work, purple hair, inappropriate attire. We take our students to restaurants so they can learn how to handle themselves in a business situation, and provide other learning opportunities."

Ameri-Tech offers classes in general office procedures/customer service, which Mr. Jones says represents roughly 75 percent of available employment in the Glades area, home health aid and nursing assistant/patient care, as well as an on-site GED program.

Although classes are available on a self-pay basis and financing is available, the majority of Ameri-Tech students are referred from Workforce Development, as part of the state's welfare-to-work program.

Under the WIA initiative, Palm Beach County must place 800 stu-

dents in educational programs. So far few have been placed. The reason, Mr. Jones said, is because in order to become eligible for educational benefits under the welfare to work program, clients must first apply for as many as 30 jobs before becoming eligible for training.

The "job first" emphasis of the legislation creates roadblocks for many students in the Glades, Mr. Jones said, noting that 60 percent of adults in the area do not have a high school diploma, 32 percent do not have a ninth grade education, roughly 1/3 do not speak English well, the teen pregnancy rate is 21 percent, 52 percent of the population lives in poverty and the unemployment rate is 25-30 percent.

"Those who could go to work in the Glades have. Those who are left are the hard-to-place because they have substantial barriers to employment," Mr. Jones said.

The Ameri-Tech program is designed to overcome those barriers.

"We believe there is a definite need for this type of program out



Ameri-Tech is licensed by the State Board of Nonpublic Career Education to offer continuing education programs for health care professionals including phlebotomy, EKG, HIV, OSHA, wound care and CPR. Pictured are nursing director Lorelei Pepito and Ameri-Tech CEO Jack Jones.

here. We have high school graduates who can't read and write. Employers have identified shortcomings of untrained employees," Mr. Jones said, noting the similarities between the Glades and Appalachia where he grew up. He moved to Florida in 1974.

"The Glades area is not unlike Appalachia. The students lack self-confidence. They really need someone or an institution to help them refrain their attitudes about themselves and develop their understanding of employer expectations."

"We teach the basics of marketing. We tell our students they are entrepreneurs—they sell their labor

to a business, the business pays them wages, which then pays taxes. It's a circular flow of economic activity," Mr. Jones said.

Such concepts are new to his students, the majority of whom are involved in the program in an effort to get off welfare.

"We tell them they must know the difference between needs and wants. Welfare satisfies needs, but to satisfy wants you have to earn the money, determine what you want and save the money to satisfy those wants. So we teach money management here."

In addition to offering training in the basic skills areas to enable

graduates to hone their employment skills and become self-sufficient, through technology-based learning programs, classroom, laboratory and field work experiences, Ameri-Tech also assists students with career planning and development, resume preparation and job placement assistance.

Day and evening classes are available, and each diploma program is set to be completed in 12-weeks, allowing students to quickly improve their employability skills and seek employment.

For more information, or to register for the next session of classes, phone (561) 996-5007.

Legal Aid launches educational empowerment initiative

According to Attorney Robert Bertisch, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc., Legal Aid will be implementing its Western Communities Educational Empowerment Initiative to proactively enhance educational services to parents and children with disabilities in grades kindergarten through fourth who reside in the Glades area of Palm Beach County through their Juvenile Advocacy program.

Services being offered include: a.) reviewing the Individualized Educational Plan for the children; and exploring measures to foster its implementation; b.) reaching

out and offering training to parents and guardians of students enrolled in Varying Exceptionalities classes to help them understand their rights regarding their children's educational needs and entitlement; c.) working with other social service supportive services and transportation to and for parents to essential school meetings; and d.) accompanying, when necessary, family members to essential school meetings and working to bridge the communication gap between parents and the school system.

The Western Communities Education Empowerment Initiative Project will improve the acad-

emic opportunities and achievement levels of students with disabilities in grades kindergarten through fourth grade by empowering parents and the community itself with the knowledge and confidence to advocate on behalf of their children and ensure that they receive what is needed to achieve academically. For more information, please contact Michelle Hankey, Supervising Attorney; Barbara Burch, Staff Attorney; Anna Vezquez, Paralegal; Gail Davis, Educational Advocate at toll free 1-800-403-9533 or 423 Fern Street, Suite 200, West Palm Beach, FL.

1999 Middle School and High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey released

The Palm Beach County Middle and High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for 1999 has been completed and reflects some interesting trends about our students. While some dangerous behaviors are low, others are of concern to educators and health professionals throughout the county.

The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System was designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to focus the nation on behaviors among youth related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults and to assess how these risk behaviors change over time. The Surveillance System measures behaviors that fall into six categories: (1) behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injuries; (2) tobacco use; (3) alcohol and other drug use; (4) sexual behaviors that result in HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies; (5) dietary behaviors; and (6) physical activity.

The physical activity YRBS was administered to 1,696 students in 17 high schools. The results

are representative of all students in grades 9-12. The middle school YRBS was administered to 1,754 students in 24 middle schools. The results are representative of all students in grades 7 and 8. National data are being

reviewed and will be available later in the spring.

A copy of the survey is available in the Office of Public Affairs, School District of Palm Beach County.

Academy of Residential Construction to begin in fall at West Tech

Exciting things are happening at West Tech in the new millennium. The technical schools are undergoing a transformation into exciting new academies for high school students. Palm Beach County's Career Academies were developed in collaboration with local business and industry to better prepare young people for the world of work. The Career Academies provide students with a unique opportunity to graduate from high school with multiple credentials, including certification in their technical area in addition to a standard Florida Ready Diploma. Career Academy students will receive from 1400-1800 hours of technical training in

their chosen field over a four-year period. Every Career Academy student will have an opportunity to participate in an internship program during his or her junior or senior year.

West Tech is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, thus establishing a tradition of excellence in education through rigorous academics and career academies. Our Business Management

Entrepreneurship Core will prepare students to start their own business.

One of the new academies for school year 2000-2001 is the Academy of Residential

Construction. This Academy will offer an opportunity for high school students to train for careers in the general construction industry. Academic and technical studies will be integrated with a curriculum focus on carpentry, framing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and plumbing. Students who successfully complete the program will receive industry certification. This will enable them to enter construction industries or continue on to college.

For more information, please call West Technical Education Center at (561) 996-4930.

Cat Talk from Gove Elementary

The Binks Forest Elementary PTA in conjunction with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring a Bicycle Safety Rodeo on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the school's pavilion and playground. Bicycle safety training, riding events and bicycle anti-theft registration will be presented by the Sheriff's Office. They will also sponsor a bike drive to benefit the students at Gove Elementary. The Binks Forest Elementary PTA and Gove Elementary have recently agreed on a business partnership that would benefit both schools.

The following volunteers have been selected as Top Volunteers for the month of January: Beatriz Alonso (33 1/2 hrs.), Gloria Alonso (44 3/4 hrs.), Robert Wheelan (13 1/2 hrs.), Tonya Hamilton (10 1/4 hrs.), Myranda Miller (58 hrs.), Maria C. Pena (12 1/2 hrs.) and Ynes Soto-Ruiz (21 1/2 hrs.). We commend all of our volunteers and business partners for their commitment to the education of our students.

Fun for kids and their families in the Mounts Botanical Garden on Sunday, March 12 between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Ladybug releases, games, arts and crafts and children's gardening classes are a few of the fun activities children can participate in. The Mounts Botanical Garden is located between Southern and Belvedere just west of the Palm Beach International Airport, 631 N. Military Trail.

Parents of students entering kindergarten next fall need to fill out a magnet application form for our International Studies Program whether they live in or out of our school boundaries. Please stop by the school to pick up a form or call for an appointment at 993-1922. The application deadline is Feb. 25.

English and Spanish Classes for Parents As a result of the survey conducted last January, the English and Spanish classes for parents will start on Monday, Feb. 28. The classes will be held twice a week (Monday and Wednesday) between 5 p.m. The classes will meet in the Family Center and in the Resource Room. Hope you can come.

Upcoming events 2/17-SAC at 6:30 p.m. 2/21-No school/conference day for parents. 2/22-Parents, child and literacy workshop for parents, 6 p.m. 2/23-Jump rope for heart. 2/25-Magnet application deadline.

15 graduate from PBCC

Fifteen students from Belle Glade and South Bay were among the 676 graduates to receive degrees from Palm Beach Community College during commencement exercises held Dec. 17 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Among those graduating from Belle Glade were: Roudy Achille, Justin Ford Blakeley, Oneida O. Buenavista, Mauricio E. Garcia, Kara LeAnn Helex, Maxine Clemmons Holland, Mary-Ann Noelle Hollingsworth, Maria D. Lopez, Harold Miller, Terresca S. Mincey, Sonheine Quan, Christopher Michael Stevens, Daniel Jacquet Walker and Emily Michele Watson.

Also graduating was Erin Gayle Meadows of South Bay.

Class of 1981 plans 20-year reunion

Planning is underway for Glades Central High School's Class of 1981-20-year reunion. Members of the class are urged to attend the next planning meeting, which will be held Feb. 20 at the Banyon Club, on the corner of SR 715 and Ave. L in Belle Glade at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact class president Angla Houston at 992-4075.

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Canal Boats..Continued from Page 1

enjoy wintering in South Florida. Pahokee hopes the boats will bring in tourists who will be willing to change of pace the excursions will offer.

"We are the only place in Florida that can offer this unique tourist attraction," said Chamber Executive Director Alice Thompson. From the Pahokee Marina, boats have easy access to either coast by way of the Caloosahatchee River or the St. Lucie Canal and visitors can travel around the 726 mile lake system to other lake communities—Clewiston, Moore Haven, and Okeechobee and view the cattle ranches, citrus groves, cane fields and fish camps that dot the shoreline.

Recently six Pahokee residents, Lynda Moss, Faith Sasser, Becky Bush, Barbara Branch and Cynthia Turville chartered one of the boats for a six-day cruise from Pahokee to Moore Haven, LaBelle, Ft. Moore and back.

Upon their return, the ladies shared photos of their cruise and the log they kept of their journey.

"We were all so excited about this adventure and somewhat apprehensive at the same time," wrote Lynda Moss, who was the boat's "Skipper" for the cruise. "We all had some boating experience, but none of us had ever taken on a task of this magnitude before. Most of us had never been down the set of locks before," Ms. Moss said.

According to the ship's log, compiled by Becky Bush, the ladies began their cruise from the Pahokee Marina, following a two hour orientation at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23.

"We were very excited and pulled out with a CD playing 'Amazing Grace' on the bagpipes. The day was bright, sunny and cool," Ms. Bush wrote. The group traveled down the river canal to South Bay where "Skipper" Lynda Moss had scouted out a berth for the boat, which are not to be oper-

ated at night.

"The docking came off without a hitch except for one thing. I was to tie up the bow and inadvertently had my foot hanging over the edge of the boat where we very lightly bumped in to the dolphin. My second toe on my left foot served as a bumper for the landing," Ms. Bush wrote.

The crew were awakened at 4 a.m. Monday by a cold front and thunderstorms which soaked them through an open window.

"We got a very early start on Monday and got to the Moore Haven locks around midday. Being an inexperienced crew, we approached this situation with some fear and trepidation, especially since there was quite a 'gale' blowing. However, all our worry was in vain. Our Captain pulled it off with the help of 'all hands on deck,' Ms. Bush wrote. "We pulled up to the city docks and Cynthia and I offloaded our bikes and went in search of minnows. We had two dozen in a matter of minutes thanks to Alvin's Bait Stand. By the way, the bikes are wonderful. We stayed in port for a few minutes to let a storm pass on by," she said before traveling on to dock for the night at Hendry Isles.

Tuesday, the group traveled through the Ortona Locks without incident, visited with a friend Pahokee resident, Rhonda Elliott, before mooring at Real Harbor in Alva for the night.

"This is where we met our greatest challenge of the trip so far. The owner of the marina mistakenly thought we had a 3-inch 'draw' instead of a 3-foot draw. She directed us into about 12 inches of water and 18 inches of mud! It was nerve wracking at first but everyone around in their boats was so helpful that it wasn't bad. Buzz and I, the captain, were able to get to hop aboard and get us out of the swamp."

The crew continued on their journey, passing another Mid-

lakes vessel returning from the west as they exited the W.P. Franklin Lock and arrived in the Ft. Myers Yacht Basin at around three, allowing the ladies to shop downtown before preparing a lobster dinner aboard the Canadagua that evening.

Thursday, Jan. 26 was the crew's "hit it hard day" as they traveled from Ft. Myers to Moore Haven, stopping only for lunch in LaBelle where they tied up at the municipal dock. Friday, Ms. Bush noted, the group stayed in time to watch the sun rising over the lake as they made their way back to Pahokee.

"Everyone should be so fortunate to wake up so gently and so carefree. It's good for the body, mind and soul," she said. Her crew mates agreed.

"The beauty of this trip was a combination of God's handiwork around us, wonderful friends—each with his own expertise on board," comrade call aboard to have a railroad crossing opened any would need," Barbara Branch wrote in the ships log.

All of the ladies said they learned new skills, saw familiar places from a new perspective, and enjoyed the relaxation the trip offered as well as the company of friends.

"We learned how to call ahead to the lockmasters, call ahead to get a bridge opened, call ahead to have a railroad crossing opened any would need," Barbara Branch wrote in the ships log.

"We each had a job every morning before we got underway and we followed this checklist each and every day. What a wonderful system we had so that everyone got to enjoy and truly have a relaxed trip. I would highly recommend this type of trip to everyone who asks. This was an experience that I will never forget."



Ruth McReynolds, second from right, and Laurine Worth, sisters of the late Vinson Henderson, presented Pahokee Vice Mayor Roy Singletary, left, with the prototype of a million dollar check representing an endowment from the late Mr. Henderson for the perpetual maintenance of the Port Mayaca Cemetery, which is maintained by the City of Pahokee. Also pictured, from left, Pahokee Commissioner Henry Crawford, City Manager Ken Schenck and cemetery supervisor Art Ivester, right. (Photo by Tracy Whirls)

Sunspots/From Page 1

Elks to host Appreciation Awards

Belle Glade Elks Lodge #1716 will be hosting the annual Barbecue and District Chair Appreciation Awards for the Florida Elks Southeast District.

The event will be held at the Belle Glade Marina Pavilion on Sunday, February 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rib or chicken dinners will cost \$6 per person and members and guests are invited to attend.

There will be children's activities included during the day and a fishing contest at 1 p.m. Adult supervision is required and poles and bait will need to be brought by the participants.

For advanced tickets please call the Elks' Lodge at 996-1716 or 992-5886.

Board basics offered in Belle Glade

Board Connection, a project of Leadership Palm Beach County, Inc., is offering its "Board Basics" training class. "Board Basics" is the boot

camp for potential and current board members. It takes place Saturday, Feb. 26 at Palm Beach Community College, Glades Campus in Room 123. The address is 1977 College Drive, Belle Glade.

The training takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the cost is \$10 per person and includes breakfast, lunch, and a training manual.

The course covers the following subjects: Board Governance, Officers & Committees Structure, Roles & Responsibilities of Board Members and Staff, Financial & Accounting, Strategic Planning, Fundraising, Legal Responsibilities.

The facilitators are professionals in various areas of expertise and are alumni of Leadership Palm Beach County.

For more information about the classes call 661-802-6280.

One Hundred Black Men Breakfast set

One Hundred Black Men of Palm Beach County, Inc. will be hosting a breakfast for 100 members or potential members on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. at the Kountry Kitchen

in Belle Glade.

One Hundred Black Men of Palm Beach County, Inc. is an organization of black men in the county who are committed to helping minority youth and dedicated to providing positive black male role models using effective mentoring principles.

For more information or to RSVP, call 996-6828.

Special services at Church of God

The Church of God, 156 N.W. 9th Avenue, South Bay, is holding "Renewal Week Services" from Monday, Feb. 21 to Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. each evening. The subject is "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" and the services will feature several Church of God speakers.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, the church will begin their annual Missionary Day Program at 3 p.m. The subject is "Come and follow me."

Minister Frances Hicks, of the Lakeland Florida St. Church of God will be the guest speaker.

Rebuilding D/F From Pg. 1

Office or the Palm Beach County School System. "Every time I send someone to DARE training they go to work for the school district. For some reason they seem to think it's easier working for the schools."

The department has 13 full time road patrol positions and two part time positions and still needs two more full time officers to be at full capacity, the chief said. He just hired one part time and one full time officer last week. This translates into three officers, a sergeant and two patrol officers, per shift. The department is rounded out by four dispatchers who also perform all the administrative tasks.

The Chief said while grants have helped the department with purchasing equipment, the general fund for the department has been shrinking for the past several years. "The last time we were able to give a serious raise was when we gave up two spots and used the left over funds to give raises to the other guys," the Chief said. "That helped those who have stayed here, but it's not helped the entry level."

The new officers who have joined the department over the past two years have been very aggressive and very active, Chief Salvatore said, and have been working well with other officers. This has translated in to an increase in arrests.

"When you're really short-handed it's hard to do the follow-up. You wind up letting the same person commit three crimes before you can make an arrest," the chief said, adding that once the department becomes fully staffed he will likely assign an officer to do follow-up.

"One thing officers do like about working here is they do everything. In a bigger department, you might be stuck in traffic. Here you might be a school crossing guard, work accidents, then follow up a burglary. It's good experience for

them," the chief said.

"According to statistics compiled by the department, in 1999 the Pahokee Police Department answered 9,242 calls for service in 1999, averaging more than 2,000 calls each quarter.

Of these, 986 calls were in response to burglary alarms, many of them false alarms, which utilized 493 man hours at a cost of \$12,325.

Chief Salvatore said a city ordinance provides that business owners can be fined for having an excessive number of false alarms, but the ordinance is not enforced. "The problem is, if we did enforce it, people wouldn't have alarms," the chief said, and while officers do sometimes suggest that property owners ask their alarm company to check the devices, they respond to each alarm, "even if we've responded twice already that day."

The monitoring of burglar alarms, combined with more aggressive police work have brought about a decrease in burglaries—from 76 in the first quarter of last year to 26 in the last quarter of 1999, although the total for 1999, 226 burglaries is still up when compared to stats from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which recorded 141 burglaries in Pahokee in 1998.

The chief said residents are doing a better job of informing the department of suspicious activity, although often the calls aren't made until the next day, long after the crime has occurred.

"Part of the problem is people will wait 'til the next day. A woman will call and say she saw someone taking the lawnmower out of her neighbor's shed, yesterday, but her husband didn't think she should call," the chief said, adding that he hopes that efforts such as the Citizens Observer Patrol will encourage residents to report suspicious activities.

Motor vehicle thefts were down in 1999, with a total of 34 reported, compared to 49 in

1999 Reported incidents by quarter				
	Burglary	Thefts	Assaults	Dom. violence
First quarter	72	31	47	32
Second quarter	72	31	47	32
Third quarter	52	29	27	32
Fourth quarter	26	12	28	32
Total (by category)	226	108	142	144

Total reported incidents: 1,553

1998. As with burglaries, the chief attributes the decline to aggressive police work leading to the arrests of likely perpetrators and increased vigilance on the part of residents.

Domestic violence continues to be an area of concern, the chief said, noting that the de-

Alarm response				
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
First quarter	245	245	245	245
Second quarter	245	245	245	245
Third quarter	245	245	245	245
Fourth quarter	245	245	245	245
Total alarms responded to	986	986	986	986

*986 man hours were utilized at a cost of \$12,325

partment responded to 144 in 1998

Crimes - Accidents - DUIs Traffic Deaths				
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
First quarter	85	42	3	1
Second quarter	135	40	1	0
Third quarter	152	1	1	0
Fourth quarter	180	41	1	1
Total	559	-32	6	2

1999. As with burglaries, the chief attributes the decline to aggressive police work leading to the arrests of likely perpetrators and increased vigilance on the part of residents.

Domestic violence continues to be an area of concern, the chief said, noting that the de-

partment responded to 144 in 1998

Population Crime index - % change				
	Population	Crime index	% change	murder
Pahokee	1,001	407	-12.1	0
Belle Glade	16,717	1,344	12.96	1
South Bay	3,334	224	-17.31	0

meaners and criminal traffic infractions. Of those, 82 percent of those arrested were adults, 18 percent juveniles.

The chief said, like the gener-

al public, he was surprised by those numbers, given the amount of concern expressed about juvenile crime. But while juveniles account for fewer arrests than adults, juveniles are involved in the majority of disturbance calls (a total of 601 in 1999) and many of the suspicious incidents (745) reported to police.

"A lot of the calls we get concerning juveniles aren't things you're going to make arrests for. Every day after school we get calls concerning groups of kids fighting or acting like they're going to fight and we escort them home," the Chief said.

Chief Salvatore said he is encouraged by efforts from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to prevent juvenile crime and believes the location of sub-offices in Frenck Village and Padgett Island have benefited both departments.

Another area in which arrests have increased through joint efforts with the sheriff's office and other agencies is in drug interdiction, the chief said. Drug arrests were up in the last quarter of 1999, with 24 arrests made involving cocaine, 13 marijuana, and 15 paraphernalia in the last quarter, compared to a total of 31 in the first quarter of 1999. The

multiagency drug task force. For years when we were fully staffed we had people permanently assigned," the chief said, noting that in the past Pahokee officers have participated in undercover operations in other communities.

Despite the attention that has been given by residents and the media to the four homi-

1999 criminal arrests				
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
First quarter	167	167	167	167
Second quarter	167	167	167	167
Third quarter	167	167	167	167
Fourth quarter	167	167	167	167
Total arrests	668	668	668	668

*Of total 1999 criminal arrests, 62 percent were adults, 38 percent juveniles

cides that occurred in Pahokee in 1999, and a fifth that occurred just after the first of the year, the Chief said he believes these are isolated incidents and do not indicate a threat to the general population. The chief said he believes the murder of two Hispanic men on Barfield Highway in November was likely a robbery gone bad, and he noted that the Jan. 1 murder of a Pahokee man was believed to be in retaliation for the July murder of a Pahokee teen.

While no arrests have been

in 1994, one in 1995, three in 1996, four in 1997, and three in 1998—but the majority of these, eight, occurred in the unincorporated area of the county, not in the city limits.

According to FDLE statistics, Pahokee's crime rate fell in 1998, down 1.47 percent and the police department enjoyed a 21.87 percent clearance rate for cases closed. Even when the differences in population between Pahokee and its sister cities in the Glades is taken into account, the numbers are comparable—Belle Glade had a 14.21 percent increase in crime and a 19.41 percent clearance rate, while South Bay saw crime drop 16.62 percent in 1998 and enjoyed a 25.21 percent clearance rate.

While expressing appreciation for the assistance of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Chief stops short of endorsing any move to shift law enforcement activities to the county—even part time, as South Bay has done by having the sheriff's office dispatch for the police department at night.

"You might save money doing it," the chief admitted, "and I've talked to the Chief in South Bay and it works out fine for them. But we have a different situation here."

"So much of our stuff here is walk up stuff—I don't think you'd have the kind of service we have now," the chief said.

He illustrates his point with an incident that happened when he was in high school. A car was rolling down the road and the driver was slumped over the wheel. He was able to reach into the car through the window, turn it off and check the driver, who had passed out.

"I went to the police department to report it and nobody was here—at that time they were dispatched by the highway patrol. I never knew that and to me it was kind of scary," the chief said.

chief said this does not indicate an increase in drug crimes, but more aggressive police work. "We always have worked together, participating in the

made in the slayings, which continue to be under investigation," the chief said that 1999 was an unusual year in that there were five homicides in Pahokee

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